

For a handful of jobs

THE fish farming industry is currently bringing in about \$500 million to our state annually. No one wants to see this income lost, but tourism currently brings in around \$2.3 billion to our state annually and unlike the salmon industry, is rapidly growing in a sustainable way. The Orford/Triabunna area is the largest recreational fishing and boating area in Tasmania by a long way. These people spend money in the area, have influenced the expansion of the Triabunna marina and other boating facilities, and along with tourists, are now the lifeblood of these two towns.

Tourism in the area is booming, the three hotels have come to life again. If the proposed Tassal Okehampton Bay fish farm goes ahead in its current format, many recreational boaters will go elsewhere and tourists will bypass the two towns — all for a handful of jobs that may

or may not go to the local unemployed people. How many tourists will want to stop to see polluted waters, floating marine debris, industrial-scale fish farms and spoiled beaches? Freycinet will become the preferred first stopping point from Hobart. They will bypass Orford and Triabunna.

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